



1955

## Annual Survey of American Law, 1953

W. Lewis Roberts  
*University of Kentucky*

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### Recommended Citation

Roberts, W. Lewis (1955) "Annual Survey of American Law, 1953," *Kentucky Law Journal*: Vol. 43 : Iss. 3 , Article 15.  
Available at: <https://uknowledge.uky.edu/klj/vol43/iss3/15>

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not say that I think Judge Clay's book is indispensable to an understanding of the New Practice. He had the experience, the learning, and the gift to be articulate. No Kentucky lawyer can examine this book without being the wiser for it.

A. B. McEWEN

Professor of Law  
University of Kentucky

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\*Suggested mode of citation: Clay, CR. Foreword, p. VII.

ANNUAL SURVEY OF AMERICAN LAW, 1953. New York University School of Law. 1954, New York, pp. x, 1029. \$10.00.

For the past twelve years the faculty of New York University School of Law has each year published a volume giving a survey of American law; designed, as the foreword of the first volume announced, "to aid both lawyers and laymen faced with the task of keeping abreast of the current developments in the law."

Perhaps the best way for one unfamiliar with this series to gain an idea as to just what is covered in the survey is to glance at the names of the subjects covered. The headings, in their order of treatment, are taken up as follows: International Law; The United States and the United Nations; Conflict of Laws; Constitutional Law and Civil Rights; Administrative Law; Federal Income Taxation; Federal Estate and Gift Taxation; State and Local Taxation; Trade Regulation; Labor Relations Law; Food, Drug and Cosmetic Law; Public Housing, Planning and Conservation; Local Government; Copyright Law; Patent Law; Contracts; Agency and Partnership; Corporations; Bankruptcy; Banking and Negotiable Instruments; Sales; Insurance; Transportation Law; Admiralty and Shipping; Arbitration; Torts; Family Law; Real and Personal Property; Mortgages; Future Interests; Trusts and Administration; Succession; Federal Jurisdiction and Practice; Civil Procedure in State Courts; Criminal Procedure; Evidence; Jurisprudence; Judicial Administration, and Legal Bibliography.

These surveys vary in helpfulness, from the practicing lawyer's viewpoint, from excellent to being of little or no value. Among those that are well done and of real value can be mentioned administrative law; labor relations law, which clearly sets out the problem involved in an interesting way; the survey of local government; sales; insurance; real and personal property law; future interests; trusts; evidence; and civil procedure in state courts, which, together with the one on judicial administration, brings the lawyer up to date on legislative changes,

especially the trend towards adoption by the states of procedural rules based upon those governing the Federal courts. Perhaps one of the most helpful surveys, from the practitioner's point of view, is the one on legal bibliography.

Among the least valuable surveys are those covering International Law and the United States and the United Nations, both of which are primarily concerned with setting forth the partisan viewpoints of the writers. The survey of federal income taxation has been rendered more or less obsolete by the adoption of the Internal Revenue Code Act of 1954. The practicing lawyer might possibly place at the bottom of the list the dissertation under the term jurisprudence. He very likely would say, "Does that law teacher think he can impress me by such a deluge of bombast and false assumptions?" He would probably say there is very little jurisprudence in it, and less law.

The volume has numerous citations to court decisions, law texts and law review articles. These can be of very great help to the practitioner and gain the book a place on his shelves. The section on trade regulation is outstanding in this report, since it gives a very complete list of references. Whether drawing a brief or preparing a case for trial, a lawyer is bound to find something of real help in this annual survey.

W. LEWIS ROBERTS

University of Kentucky  
College of Law